Rs.313.46 lakhs were sanctioned and Rs.313.06 lakhs released to the state of Assam, for development and promotion of tourism.

Development of tourism in UP and Maharashtra

†1439. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the place selected by Government for development of tourism in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra during the current year; and

(b) the plan formulated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism also extends financial assistance for development of tourist places of national and international importance identified in consultation with them. The process of identification of tourist places of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra to be taken up for development during the current financial year have not been completed so far.

Tourists visiting Agra

1440. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of tourists who visited India during the last three years and how many out of them visited Agra to see Taj Mahal;

(b) what is the average time spent by them; and

(c) whether there is a proposal or plan to see that the tourists spend more money and time in Agra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The information regarding the number of foreign tourists who visited India and subsequently visited Taj Mahal during the last three years is as follows:

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.